

# DOCTOR WHO

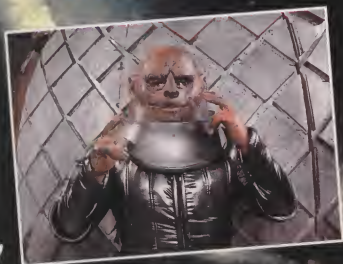
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GIANT  
SONTARAN  
POSTER  
INSIDE



THE  
SONTARANS:  
VICIOUS  
CLONE  
WARRIORS

# CLONE WARRIORS

## CLONE WARRIORS?

Linx moved his hand again. The blood-stirring ineffably sweet strains of the Sontaran Anthem pulsed through the ship. Linx never took his eyes off the screens - little, red eyes that were like fire-lit caves under the great green-brown dome of a skull - but he felt a thrill of pride run through his body. He was a Sontaran and he was dying as a Sontaran should... throwing a challenge to the Rutans.

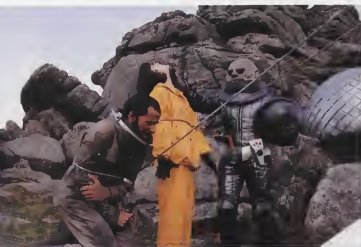
They would not follow him into the asteroid belt. They were cowards by nature. It was only because of their enormous natural resources that his people hadn't yet finally defeated them. In individual quality, in pride of arms, Sontarans were the rightful rulers of the galaxy and this time there would be no armistice; this time the war would be fought until the Rutan Empire - every last satellite - had been reduced to radioactive dust.

His home planet, Sontara, was on the further side of the galaxy. To reach it would entail a long voyage through largely hostile zones where he would need to maintain constant vigilance. Linx decided to take an energy burn while he had the opportunity.

He switched the deck monitor to active and unclipped his feeder hose from the control module. Fumbling slightly, he connected the hose to the small vent behind his neck. On entry into the Space Corps all fliers underwent mechasurgery. A probe insertion in the trapezius enabled them to live as cyborgs, drawing energy from the burners that powered their starships.

It was just a small example of Sontaran technology allied to Sontaran will: the sublimation of self to the greater end of military efficiency.

Adapted from Robert Holmes' opening chapter of *Doctor Who and the Time Warrior*, published by Virgin Books and reprinted with kind permission



## THE CREATOR

Robert Holmes

"Contrary to popular belief, the Sontarans do have other aims besides conquest. It is simply that all else, for the time being ('the time being' in their case having already lasted many thousands of years) has been subjugated to the single task of winning their war of attrition against the Rutans, an equally dedicated superpower. To this end they have genetically re-engineered themselves. In order to sustain their immense armies they have abolished the old, inefficient system of reproduction and now have muster clonings of a million recruits at a time."



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# SONTARAN CHECKLIST

Story	Writer(s)	TX Dates	Viewers	Sontarans
The Time Warrior	Robert Holmes	15-12-73 - 5-1-74	8.2 m	Link
The Sontaran Experiment	Bob Baker & Dave Martin	22-2-75 - 1-3-75	10.8 m	Styre/The Marshal
The Invasion of Time	David Agnew	4-2-78 - 11-3-78	10.5 m	Stor/Sontarans
The Two Doctors	Robert Holmes	10-2-85 - 2-3-85	6.5 m	Strike/Vari



## LINX

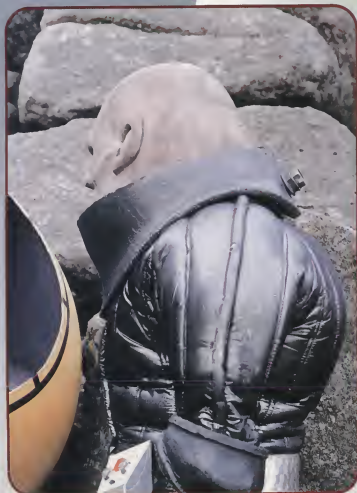
played by Kevin Lindsay

A Sontaran Commander who crashlanded in medieval England after a space battle with Rutan forces, Linx claimed the Earth as a conquest of the Sontaran Empire and immediately devoted his energies to repairing his scout ship and returning to the war. Adapting his ship's Osmic Projector, he kidnapped space-drive scientists from the twentieth century, taking refuge in the castle of the brigand Irongron in return for providing firearms centuries in advance of their time. The Doctor followed the trail of the missing scientists to the thirteenth century and enlisted the help of Sir Edward of Wessex, his faithful archer Hal, and a young journalist called Sarah Jane Smith who had stowed away on board the TARDIS. Linx, who by now had constructed a fighting robot for Irongron, was eventually killed by one of Hal's arrows.



## STYRE

played by Kevin Lindsay



The sadistic Sontaran officer entrusted with the G3 Military Assessment of Earth after the time of the Solar Flares, Field-Major Styre lured a Galsec reconnaissance ship to the barren planet with a fake distress call. Kidnapping the leader, Vural, Styre planted a surveillance device on him. One by one the Galsec crew were captured by Styre's Scavenger robot and horrifically tortured to death by drowning and starvation. Before making his final report to the Sontaran Marshal, Styre tested strength and psychological reactions by forcing the last Galsec survivors to protect the traitor Vural from being crushed by a gravity bar. The experiments - to assess human resistance to a possible invasion of Earth - were brought to an end when Harry Sullivan sabotaged the Sontaran's energy recharging equipment, resulting in Styre's death.



## STOR

played by Derek Deadman

Commander Stor of the Sontaran Special Space Service led the shock troop of warriors who arrived to take control of Gallifrey in the wake of the foiled Vardan invasion. Having utilised the "expendable" Vardans to breach the transduction barrier around the Capitol, Stor's troops set about preparing for the invasion of the Sontarans en masse. Stor's plans were rapidly sabotaged by the Doctor, and with the assistance of the opportunist Castellan Kelner, Stor diverted his energies to hunting down the Time Lord in the labyrinthine corridors of the TARDIS. The Doctor used his privileges as President of the Time Lords to implement the construction of a De-Mat Gun, a weapon forbidden since the time of Rassilon; operated by the Great Key, it abolished Stor and his invasion fleet, and then destroyed itself.

## STIKE


played by Clinton Greyn

Group Marshal Stike led the assault on Space Station Camera, slaughtering all on board except his uneasy allies, the biologist Dastari and the Androgums Chessene and Shockeye. Assigned by his superiors to assist Chessene in a plot to master time-travel (by introducing the Doctor's symbiotic nuclei into the Kartz-Reimer Module), Stike transported the kidnapped Time Lord to twentieth century Spain, where he and his aide Major Varl established headquarters at a hacienda in the hills above Seville. The mutual mistrust of Stike's alliance with Chessene soon developed into mutual treachery, however, and Stike's plan to hijack the Module (having already set his own ship to self-destruct) was thwarted when Chessene attacked the Sontarans with Coronic Acid. Mortally wounded, Stike perished when his ship vaporised.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SONTARAN

Tim Raynham, Varl from *The Two Doctors*, discusses clones, climates and champagne with Philip MacDonald



The role of Major Varl in *The Two Doctors* was an important career step for Tim Raynham, who made his television debut as the belligerent Sontaran. "I'd done a lot of theatre," he recalls. "And I thought it was time I did some television. I'd always been a great fan of *Doctor Who*—you know, hiding behind the sofa—and I wrote to John Nathan-Turner on the off-chance. I'd seen in a recent paper that Nicola Bryant had been taken directly from drama school, and I thought this wasn't at all fair because I'd been acting for five or six years and was determined to be in *Doctor Who*. So I wrote John a letter saying how dare he take this girl straight out of college—what had she got that I hadn't? It couldn't be that she's more pretty than I am, surely! And I sent him her photo and my photo by way of comparison. And he said that anyone who could make him laugh on a wet Thursday afternoon deserved an interview! So I had an interview and the director Peter Moffatt gave me a funny voice to do, and lo and behold, three weeks later a script dropped through my front door. It was the most amazing feeling—really wonderful—and then of course they told me that my first two weeks would be in Spain and then six weeks in BBC Television Centre. It was great. My cup runneth over!"

As he was taking on the role of a member of an established villainous species, Tim was provided with research material to maintain continuity with the Sontarans' previous appearances. "Both Clinton Greyn and myself had to watch videos of people that had played it before, and actually our voices differed slightly from the earlier Sontarans. Whether they had an effect put on theirs I don't know, but ours were just our own voices."

Landing the part of a *Doctor Who* monster naturally entailed an unusual costume fitting or two. "It was quite an experience, having the mask and the head made. Everything was all totally new to me. I had a cast made of my whole head, which was a really bizarre experience. How a claustrophobic would have it done I don't know, because they put hot Plaster of Paris over the back of the head, and then over the front they pour stuff they make dental moulds out of, and they made these wonderful pieces. The only problem was that we were filming in Spain, and we had it written into the contract that we wouldn't film between the hours of eleven and two, because it would be too hot. And of course the only times we actually did record during those two weeks were between the hours of eleven and two! It was red-hot, but as consolation John Nathan-Turner bought some champagne for us to drink one day. Unfortunately we couldn't get out of our costumes, so we had to drink champagne through a straw, and both the Sontarans were staggering around for the rest of the afternoon, and were useless!"

"It was great fun to work with Patrick Troughton who was one of my heroes. Because it was my first television I was petrified, and when I arrived at the airport the first person I met was Patrick, and he said, 'Oh dear boy, do come over here, what are you doing?', and I said I was playing a Sontaran, and he said, 'Oh, have a large gin and tonic!'. So we had a large gin and tonic, and then we had another large gin and tonic... and then on the plane he brought out a hip flask, and we drank all the way to Spain. We were sozzled by the time we arrived. Colin Baker, who was another of my childhood heroes, was great as well."

A few weeks after completion of recording on *The Two Doctors*,

Tim found himself being invited to reprise his role (though on this occasion his and Clinton Greyn's characters had acquired the suspiciously familiar names of Group Marshal Nathan and Major Turner) to help fulfil a young fan's wishes on an edition of the BBC's *Jim'll Fix It* broadcast on the same evening as the second episode of *The Two Doctors*. "It actually meant that I died in two consecutive weekends. The little boy had written in saying he wanted to play the Doctor, and they asked if I would mind doing a little scene? Pound signs dropped into my eyes and I said it would be great. It was actually very good fun.

about half an hour chatting. I didn't know who he was from Adam, and I turned round and it was Julian Lennon. He was a really nice guy. *Jim'll Fix It* has rather a lot of critics, but the people who go on it are very genuine. We felt, doing the scene, that we wanted to do it, it was something we wanted to make someone feel good about. It's schmaltzy television, but I think it does a good job. It was good fun and a good experience."

It was during transmission of *The Two Doctors* in February 1985 that Michael Grade announced the postponement of the next season of *Doctor Who* and heralded what became known as the 'cancellation crisis'. "I know at the time there was a lot of ill-feeling, because they'd also given us different time

Who, but somehow you always knew that there was a little man in the Dalek, and most of the baddies were actually human-shaped. I don't think it was so frightening that it would ruin people's lives forever. There are a lot more violent things now, what with Sega Megadrives where they kill each other and chop limbs off. It's nothing like that. I just think it was good, honest entertainment. And it's a market that hasn't really been filled since, and I for one would be very pleased if it did come back. I think one day it will."



We did some pre-filming in the afternoon, and the rest of it was live, so that was my first experience of live television, but by then I was an old hand. I'd been doing television for all of ten minutes by then, and I knew exactly what was going on! Actually I was so petrified, anything could have happened. But they all dragged me round the set and told me when to say my lines and we got it done. We did about a five- or six-minute scene. The only problem was, when we entered, an explosion went off and the set caught fire."

This wasn't Tim's only uncomfortable experience. "As you know, a Sontaran dies with green blood or whatever it is, and the green blood is actually Swarfega, so we had spoonfuls of Swarfega put in our mouths and we had to spit it through our masks. To get rid of the taste, the kindly BBC gave us BBC lager – and actually the Swarfega tasted much better! The whole thing though was such good fun. I was sitting in make-up being done and this chap came in behind me and just sat for

slots – they'd changed it from peak Saturday night to something earlier. They'd messed around with the times, and then they turned around and decided to take it off because there weren't so many people watching it, but mainly because there weren't people at home to sit down and watch it. I mean, it may have been getting tired by then – I don't know, that's not for me to say. But I'm convinced there's a market for it, and if it came back now it would be marvellous. They were thinking of doing a film, but I don't know how far that's got. They did the 3-D thing a while back, and that was a great success." A confirmed supporter of *Doctor Who*, Tim refutes the suggestion that the alleged violence of stories such as *The Two Doctors* was a legitimate reason for the show's suspension. "I don't think it's a violent programme. It's like a *Tom and Jerry* cartoon. People die, yes – I died – but you don't see blood and guts. I was brought up on it, and I was frightened, but I'd like to think it didn't do me any harm. *Star Trek* was so successful here and in America because people could see the sets move, you could tell it wasn't real. Okay, people got killed in *Doctor*





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